

THE MYSORE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

TENTH DAY

Tuesday, 28th March, 1967

The House met in the Assembly Hall, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore, at One of the Clock.

Mr. SPEAKER (Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA, B.A., B.L.) in the Chair.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

RE: REDUCTION IN D.A. OF THE WORKERS OF THE K. R. MILLS.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I find that the matter is pending in the Court. So, a limited reply could be given.

Sri AZEEZ SAIT (Narasimharaja).—Sir, I call the attention of the Minister for Home and Labour to the “Reduction in D.A. of the workers of the Sri Krishnarajendra Mills, Mysore.”

† Sri M. V. RAMA RAO (Minister for Home and Labour).—Sir, I will make a brief statement on the matter referred to the Hon’ble Member.

The Managing Director of Sri Krishnarajendra Mills Limited, Mysore intimated on 7th January, 1967 that the period of four months from September to December 1966 in respect of which the rate of Dearness Allowance had been fixed by virtue of settlement dated 13th September, 1966, came to a close on 31st December 1966. He therefore requested that conciliation may be taken up immediately for arriving at a settlement regarding the quantum of dearness allowance payable from the month of January 1967, so as to avoid un-certainty and consequential industrial unrest. Accordingly conciliation was held on 11th and 16th January 1967 at which the five trade unions which are operating in the Mills, covering the workers, participated.

By settlement dated 1st July, 1963, it had been agreed that with effect from 1st January, 1960, dearness allowance, at the rate of Rs. 39-04 would be the fixed dearness allowance, for the cost of living index of 327 points and that with effect from 1st July 1963, for every point rise above 327 points, flexible dearness allowance would be paid at the rate of 0-20 paise per point. This settlement was to be valid for a period of 4 years from 1st July, 1963.

† Indicates that the remarks or speeches have not been revised by the member concerned.

(Sri M. V. RAMA RAO)

Subsequently, as a result of the steep rise in the cost of living index, the dearness allowance payable to the workers and staff became so heavy that the company was placed in serious financial difficulties. In view of this, the representatives of the management, the staff and the workers met in conciliation on 30th September, 1966 and entered into a settlement partially modifying the settlement of 1st July, 1963 and freezing the dearness allowance payable to workers at Rs. 110 per month for the four months namely September to December 1966.

In spite of the above gesture of the workers and staff employees, the position has not improved, but on the other hand, it has deteriorated further. The management brought to the notice of the representatives of the workers and the staff the difficulties experienced in running the Mills owing to a number of reasons. The management explained at length the factors leading them to these difficulties.

The management further explained that unless drastic measures were instituted to prevent further losses and to place the company on a sound financial footing, the management was bound to carry out the instructions of the share holders and bring the company into liquidation and close down the Mills. After prolonged discussion, the Sri Krishnarajendra Mills Labour Association and the Sri Krishnarajendra Mills Staff Association which are the recognised Unions under the Code of Discipline and which represent the majority of workers and another un-recognised union namely Sri Krishnarajendra Mills Staff Union stated that they fully realised the gravity and seriousness of the situation facing the company and had detailed discussions with the representatives of the management to devise ways and means to prevent a closing down of the Mills, which is bound to cause widespread unemployment in this region and cause unhappiness and suffering to thousands of employees and their dependants. They extended full co-operation to the management to avert such a major disaster and wanted the word "closure" to be completely eschewed. Accordingly they agreed to sign the settlement.

An agreement was therefore effected in conciliation before the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Mysore, on 16th January, 1967 which provided among other things, that the workers agreed for a reduction of dearness allowance bringing several rates to several categories. All the five trade unions which are operating in this concern, were made party to the conciliation and therefore the terms of settlement effected are binding on all the parties which were made a party to the settlement under Section 18(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

However, one of the trade unions, namely Sri Krishnarajendra Mills Workers Union, has filed a writ petition in the High Court of Mysore, questioning the validity of the above said settlement in which the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Mysore, is also made one of the respondents.

As could be seen from the above, the settlement has been obtained as per the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the parties thereto are bound by the terms of settlement and the management is within its limits to have effected a reduction in the payment of wages of the workers as per the agreement. Therefore, it cannot be said that the reduction in Dearness Allowance is effected arbitrarily and without powers.

However, as the matter is before the High Court, it would be *sub-judice* and this question cannot be further canvassed.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Sri C. M. DESAI (Sindgi).—Sir, I do not propose to move the motion standing in my name.

Sri VISHWANATH REDDY RACHANGOUDA (Yadgir).—Sir, I move :

“That Sri Sharangouda be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.”

Sri SADASHIVAPPA PATIL (Deodurg).—Sir, I second the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Motion moved :

“That Sri Sharangouda be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.”

Mr. SPEAKER.—Now Sri K. Prabhakar to move his motion.

Sri K. PRABHAKAR (Varthur).—I beg to move :

“That Sri D. Manjunath be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly”.

Dr. R. NAGANGOWDA (Hospet).—I second the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Motion moved :

“That Sri D. Manjunath be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.”

Mr. SPEAKER.—B.A. Bola Shetty to move his motion.

Sri B. A. BOLA SHETTY (Bailhongal).—I will not move Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I will put the first motion to vote. Members may kindly know that I am putting the motion of Sri Vishwanath Reddy to elect Sri Sharangouda as Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Those in favour of the motion may kindly stand in their seats. The other day when election to the office of the Speaker took place, it was done by voice vote first and when the division was pressed, counting was done. What procedure shall I follow now ?

Sri H. SIDDA VEERAPPA (Harihar).—The Speaker is at liberty to follow any procedure.